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the discussions of debated subjects. The conclusions reached are unusually sound, but if one differs from the author the bibliographies and references place him in a position to pursue the question farther on his own account. The treatment of "history as literature" (in Chap. I.), "the facts of most worth" (Chap. IX.), and "taking notes" (in Chap. X.) must appeal to the great body of teachers. Towards the end of the first part the author says, "As the first principle of method is the teacher, so also is the last principle." And, after all, the entire book is a plea for better-trained teachers of history, and it shows well the necessity of such training, if the work is to be successfully done. In the second part of his book Professor Bourne lays himself open to criticism. One might object to the proportion of space devoted to the various periods; for example, over one-third of the whole is given up to ancient history. In view of the very general acceptance of the *Report of the Committee of Seven*, one might regard as unwise the placing of the limits of medieval history at 395 A. D. and 1560, and the rearrangement of modern European and early American history in such a way as almost to obscure the history of England. These criticisms, however, would not vitiate the value of the work, for the author disclaims any intention of marking out rigid courses of study and just because they represent a new point of view the suggestions made are all the more helpful to one who would distribute the matter in a different way.

A more serious objection might be made to one man's attempting to cover so many fields. Taking, for instance, subjects with which the reviewer happens to be more familiar, he notes the failure to mention Larned's *Literature of American History*. A specialist in American history would have known that the work was in press and, since other forthcoming books are noted, would have included a reference to this. In the treatment of England's relations to her American colonies no mention is made of Beer's *Commercial Policy of England*, for the teacher perhaps the most helpful treatise upon this subject. And in the references for western emigration Professor Turner's articles are omitted, which are the most important of all for this feature of American development. Such omissions are regrettable, but there are compensating advantages in the unity of treatment from all subjects' being covered by the same person, and it must be said that the work as a whole has been well done.

MAX FARRAND.

The Economic Interpretation of History. By EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN. (New York: The Columbia University Press; The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pp. ix, 166.)

THE purpose of this book, which is a reproduction with a few unimportant changes of the author's articles in volumes XVI. and XVII. of the *Political Science Quarterly*, is to familiarize American readers with a solution of the problem of social dynamics, which has been engaging the lively attention of thinkers in Europe during the past few decades. The

thesis which Professor Seligman admirably expounds is the following: "The existence of man depends on his ability to sustain himself: the economic life is therefore the fundamental condition of all life. Since human life, however, is the life of man in society, individual existence moves within the framework of the social structure and is modified by it. What the conditions of maintenance are to the individual, the similar relations of production and consumption are to the community. To economic causes, therefore, must be traced in last instance those transformations in the structure of society which themselves condition the relations of social classes and the various manifestations of social life."

The genesis, the development, and the recent applications of this thesis form the subject of Part I. of the book. Its origin is to be found in the philosophical system of Karl Marx, who was a follower of the Hegelian dialectics and familiar with the idea of the growth of society before the theory of evolution had received its definite form. To Hegel's conception of process Marx added Feuerbach's naturalism, and thus obtained his fundamental theory that "all social institutions are the result of a growth, and the causes of this growth are to be sought in the conditions of material existence." His doctrine is not to be identified with Buckle's doctrine of physical environment; for, though similar in kind, it is broader in application and based upon a more acute and thorough analysis of society. By the spring of 1845, long before the publication of Buckle's *History of Civilization in England*, his theory was worked out by Marx. It was the fundamental thought underlying the famous *Manifesto of the Communist Party in 1848* and was definitely summed up in his *Contributions to the Criticism of Political Economy*, which appeared in 1859. It was not, however, till the publication of the third volume of *Capital* in 1894 and the more careful study of his earlier and less known works that Marx's important contribution to the interpretation of history was recognized.

The most interesting and instructive applications of the theory have been made in studies of primitive society. Here the first attempt was independent of the Marxists, for Morgan in his *Ancient Society*, 1877, showed "the connection between the growth of private property and the evolution of the horde into the clan." Morgan's investigations were extended by Engels in his *Origin of the Family*, wherein by uniting Marx and Morgan he proved that the gradual growth of exchange and the division of labor have been effective causes of changes in social and political institutions. Professor Seligman devotes several pages to tracing the development of this idea in recent publications.

In Part II. the author considers the following criticisms of the theory: first, it is fatalistic; second, it assumes historical laws; third, it is socialistic; fourth, it neglects the ethical and spiritual forces in history; fifth, it leads to absurd exaggerations. The book ends with chapters on the "truth or falsity" and the "final estimation" of the theory. The chief criticisms of the doctrine have been due either to the exaggerated claims made by its defenders or to the misconception of it by its critics. The hos-

tility aroused by the writings of the founder of "scientific socialism" led Marx and his follower Engels to overstate the importance of their historical doctrine. But with a more favorable reception the earlier crude form has been modified, so that its supporters no longer claim "that the economic relations exert an exclusive influence, but that they exert a preponderant influence in shaping the progress of society."

Although the historical student is skeptical about the value of any attempt, such as this of Marx and his school, to find the causes of historical change in any particular succession of phenomena, to say nothing of its feasibility, he reads with great interest this complete and able exposition of the most instructive and interesting theory of social dynamics. Professor Seligman maintains throughout the book an attitude of impartiality, and with a complete mastery of the subject and its literature covers the whole field of the controversy, exposing satisfactorily the weaknesses and the strength of the theory, so that the book must be regarded as a distinct contribution to the philosophical side of historical literature.

C. W. ALVORD.

Democracy and the Organization of Political Parties. By M. OSTROGORSKI. Translated from the French by FREDERICK CLARKE, M.A., with a preface by JAMES BRYCE, M.P. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Two vols., pp. lviii, 627; xliii, 793.)

THIS book is by far the largest treatise that has yet appeared upon a subject which has been growing in importance for nearly a century. The author has been engaged upon the work for many years. He has not only made a thorough examination of the material available, but he has also spent a great deal of time in talking with public men of all kinds in England and America; and, in fact, students interested in the subject have long been looking for the book. The first volume treats of England, the second of America, and they are, in reality, separate treatises; for, although the author makes in the American part an occasional comparison with the condition of things in England, these references are few, and there is no systematic attempt to treat the phenomena of parties in the two countries as different aspects of a single problem.

The first volume begins with a description of the condition of England in the eighteenth century — the old unity, as the author calls it. Then follows an account of the breaking up of the old society, the attempts at reaction, and the definite triumph of the new régime. This part of the book, which covers a little over one hundred pages, is interesting and suggestive. Then the main theme is taken up, beginning with the origin of political associations and party organization, leading up, of course, to the establishment of the Birmingham caucus, and its development into the National Liberal Federation. The author next takes up the development of the conservative organization, and afterwards describes in great detail the party machinery, and the methods of